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Planning and Project Implementation Update



January 2012

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### ABOUT THIS UPDATE

The purpose of the Chippewa Quarterly is to provide a summary of environmental analyses on the Chippewa National Forest. Issued quarterly, this is intended to complement other public involvement efforts initiated by the Forest Supervisor or District Rangers. Legal notices will continue to be published in the following local newspapers: Bemidji's *The Pioneer* for Forest Supervisor decisions; and Blackduck's *American*, *Cass Lake Times*, Deer River's *Western Itasca Review*, and Walker's *The Pilot-Independent* for District Ranger decisions.

Projects are classified into one of three categories:

#### **Environmental Analyses in Progress**

This category includes projects in which public input is being or is about to be solicited. It also includes those projects that are currently under study or analysis. Environmental analyses include Environmental Impact Statements (EIS), Environmental Assessments (EA), and Categorical Exclusions (CE).

#### **Completed Decision Documents**

These projects have culminated in the preparation of completed environmental analyses and decision documents since the last issue. These decision documents include Records of Decision (ROD), Decision Notices (DN), and Decision Memos (DM). Findings of No Significant Impacts will be included in this category, also.

#### **Proposals Cancelled or On Hold**

Some projects initiated and published in this Quarterly may be cancelled or deferred for various reasons. These projects may or may not be picked up for completion at a later date.

### **HOW YOU CAN BECOME INVOLVED**

Read through the list of proposed projects. If you want to provide site-specific comments on a project, get more information, or be placed on the project mailing list, write or call the contact person listed for that project. It is only through site-specific input that we can be responsive to and incorporate your concerns into project development.

## DEFINITION OF TERMS

**Appeal Period** - The 45-day period after publication of a decision in which an appeal can be filed.

**Categorical Exclusion (CE)** - A category of actions that do not individually or cumulatively have a significant effect on the human environment. Neither an environmental assessment nor an environmental impact statement is required.

**Comment Period** - The time allowed for interested persons to provide comments to a Responsible Official on a proposed action.

**Decision Memo (DM)** - A concise written record of the responsible official's decision to implement an action that has been categorically excluded from documentation.

**Decision Notice (DN)** - A concise written record of the responsible official's decision based on an environmental assessment and a finding of no significant impact.

**Environmental Assessment (EA)** - A document that presents issues and concerns important to a project, alternate means of accomplishing a project, and environmental effects of each of those alternatives.

**Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)** - This document is required for proposed actions that may have significant effects on the human environment. The contents are similar to an environmental assessment, and it includes some additional sections.

**Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)** - A document prepared by a federal agency presenting the reasons why an action, not otherwise excluded, will not have a significant effect on the human environment and for which an environmental impact statement will not be prepared.

**NEPA** - National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. The procedural guide for the decision making process for site-specific projects.

**Proposed Action** - A proposal made by the Forest Service to authorize, recommend, or implement an action on National Forest System lands to meet a specific purpose and need which is subject to public notice comment provisions.

**Scoping** - Includes internal and public involvement to determine the range of issues to be addressed. Scoping aids in the development of alternatives for a proposed action.

**Significance** - As used in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), requires consideration of both context and intensity.

### Anticipated "Walk-in" Business

Requests from the public occasionally necessitate analyses be completed with a short turn-around. This may mean that decisions are made without prior announcement in this Update. As these projects come up for consideration however, they will continue to be announced by legal notices in newspapers. Examples of walk-in requests include special use roads and utility rights-of-way. Scoping efforts for these requests will be conducted as applicable.

### Forest Policy on Distributing Documents

Draft and Final Environmental Assessments and Decision Notices/FONSI's and Draft and Final Environmental Impact Statements and Records of Decision are routinely mailed to individuals who provide comments on a project. We do not routinely distribute biological assessments or biological evaluations with the previously listed documents. If you wish to receive biological evaluations or biological assessments for NEPA projects, please contact the district and/or Supervisor's Office NEPA Coordinators.

### Privacy on Comments Received

Comments received in response to solicitation as part of the NEPA process, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record on a proposed action and will be available for public inspection. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered; however, those who submit anonymous comments will not have standing to appeal the subsequent decision under 36 CFR Parts 215 or 217. Additionally, pursuant to 7 CFR 1.27(d), any person may request the agency to withhold a submission from the public record by showing how the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) permits such confidentiality. Persons requesting such confidentiality should be aware that, under the FOIA, confidentiality may be granted in only very limited circumstances, such as to protect trade secrets. The Forest Service will inform the requester of the agency's decision regarding the request for confidentiality, and where the request is denied, the agency will return the submission and notify the requester that the comments may be resubmitted with or without name and address within stated number of days.



## Schedule of Proposed Action (SOPA)

01/01/2012 to 03/31/2012

### Chippewa National Forest

This report contains the best available information at the time of publication. Questions may be directed to the Project Contact.

Project Name	Project Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact
<b>Projects Occurring Nationwide</b>					
<b>Gypsy Moth Management in the United States: A Cooperative Approach</b> EIS	- Vegetation management (other than forest products)	In Progress: DEIS NOA in Federal Register 09/19/2008 Est. FEIS NOA in Federal Register 12/2011	Expected:03/2012	01/2013	Noel Schneeberger 610-557-4121 nschneeberger@fs.fed.us
	<b>Description:</b> The USDA Forest Service and Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service are analyzing a range of strategies for controlling gypsy moth damage to forests and trees in the United States.				
	<b>Web Link:</b> <a href="http://www.na.fs.fed.us/wv/eis/">http://www.na.fs.fed.us/wv/eis/</a>				
	<b>Location:</b> UNIT - All Districts-level Units. STATE - All States. COUNTY - All Counties. Nationwide.				
<b>Land Management Planning Rule</b> EIS	- Regulations, Directives, Orders	In Progress: DEIS NOA in Federal Register 02/25/2011 Est. FEIS NOA in Federal Register 11/2011	Expected:12/2011	12/2011	Larry Hayden 202-205-1559 lhayden@fs.fed.us
	<b>Description:</b> The Department of Agriculture proposes to promulgate a new planning rule, which will set out the process for development, revision, and amendment of National Forest System land management plans.				
	<b>Web Link:</b> <a href="http://www.fs.usda.gov/planningrule">http://www.fs.usda.gov/planningrule</a>				
	<b>Location:</b> UNIT - All Districts-level Units. STATE - All States. COUNTY - All Counties. Agency-wide Rule.				
<b>Nationwide Aerial Application of Fire Retardant on National Forest System Lands.</b> EIS	- Regulations, Directives, Orders	In Progress: DEIS NOA in Federal Register 05/13/2011 Est. FEIS NOA in Federal Register 11/2011	Expected:12/2011	01/2012	Glen Stein 208-869-5405 gstein@fs.fed.us
	<b>Description:</b> The Forest Service will prepare a programmatic environmental impact statement for the continued nationwide aerial application of fire retardant on National Forest System lands.				
	<b>Web Link:</b> <a href="http://www.fs.fed.us/fire/retardant/index.html">http://www.fs.fed.us/fire/retardant/index.html</a>				
	<b>Location:</b> UNIT - All Districts-level Units. STATE - All States. COUNTY - All Counties. Nationwide.				

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<b>Chippewa National Forest, Forestwide (excluding Projects occurring in more than one Forest)</b>					<b>R9 - Eastern Region</b>
<b>Non-native Invasive Plants (NNIP) Management Project</b> EA	- Vegetation management (other than forest products)	Completed	Actual: 10/03/2011	06/2012	Thomas Heutte 907-228-4132 theutte@fs.fed.us
	<b>Description:</b> Use an adaptive management driven multi-agency approach to 1) Prevent the further spread of NNIP 2). Prevent and reduce impacts from existing NNIP infestations in the area. 3). Restore the land's resistance to NNIP <b>Web Link:</b> <a href="http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=22211">http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=22211</a>				
	<b>Location:</b> UNIT - Chippewa National Forest All Units. STATE - Minnesota. COUNTY - Beltrami, Cass, Itasca. Forest-wide.				
<b>Reservoir Operating Plan Evaluation (ROPE) Study</b> EIS	- Recreation management - Wildlife, Fish, Rare plants - Watershed management	In Progress: FEIS NOA in Federal Register 10/02/2009	Expected:03/2012	06/2010	Luke Rutten 218-335-8666 lrutten@fs.fed.us
	<b>Description:</b> Operation of Federal dams and coordination with operators of non-Federal dams in the headwaters of the Mississippi River area between Bemidji and St. Paul				
	<b>Location:</b> UNIT - Chippewa National Forest All Units. STATE - Minnesota. COUNTY - Beltrami, Cass, Itasca. Upper Mississippi River between Bemidji and St. Paul.				

<b>Chippewa National Forest Blackduck Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District)</b>					<b>R9 - Eastern Region</b>
<b>Arrowhead Communications Buried Fiber Optic Cable</b> CE	- Special use management	Completed	Actual: 08/23/2011	06/2012	Jeff Allison 218-835-3115 jmallison@fs.fed.us
	<b>Description:</b> Installation of buried fiber optic cable along HWY 2 and County Highway 91				
	<b>Location:</b> UNIT - Blackduck Ranger District. STATE - Minnesota. COUNTY - Cass. LEGAL - T145N R28W Sections 18, 19, 20, 27, 28, and 29. located along Highway 2 and Highway 91, south of Lake Winniebigoshish in Cass County, MN.				
<b>Coddington Snowmobile Trail Project</b> CE	- Recreation management	Cancelled	N/A	N/A	Linda Burke 218-835-3129 lburke@fs.fed.us
	<b>Description:</b> Proposal to allow the Ridge Runners Snowmobile Club from Northome, MN to improve portions of an abandoned railroad grade on the forest to use as a snowmobile trail.				
	<b>Location:</b> UNIT - Blackduck Ranger District. STATE - Minnesota. COUNTY - Itasca. LEGAL - T150N R27W Section 26 and T149N R27W Section 3. Located near Coddington Lake and Wirt, MN.				

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<b>Chippewa National Forest Blackduck Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District)</b>					<b>R9 - Eastern Region</b>
<b>Farley Resource Management</b> EA	- Recreation management - Wildlife, Fish, Rare plants - Forest products - Fuels management	Developing Proposal Est. Scoping Start 01/2012	Expected:09/2012	09/2015	Thomas Heutte 907-228-4132 theutte@fs.fed.us
	<b>Description:</b> Timber sale, reforestation, and various other associated projects				
	<b>Location:</b> UNIT - Blackduck Ranger District. STATE - Minnesota. COUNTY - Beltrami, Itasca. LEGAL - T 146 N to T 149N , R 27 W to R 30 W. Bounded on the north by Skimmerhorn Lake, on the south by Lake Winnie, on the east by Round Lake and on the west by Decker Lake.				
<b>Rabideau CCC Camp Management</b> EA	- Recreation management - Special use management - Facility management	In Progress: Scoping Start 03/13/2011 Est. 215 Comment Period Legal Notice 03/2012	Expected:04/2012	06/2012	Ann Long-Voelkner 218-835-3116 alongvoelkner@fs.fed.us
	<b>Description:</b> Updates to the use and management of the CCC camp, including seasons of use, maintained buildings, and non-structural land uses.				
	<b>Web Link:</b> <a href="http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=33624">http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=33624</a>				
<b>Wagner Lake Resource Management</b> EA	- Wildlife, Fish, Rare plants - Forest products - Vegetation management (other than forest products)	Completed	Actual: 10/07/2011	09/2013	Linda Burke 218-835-3129 lburke@fs.fed.us
	<b>Description:</b> Timber sale, reforestation, and various other associated projects.				
	<b>Web Link:</b> <a href="http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=33623">http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=33623</a>				
	<b>Location:</b> UNIT - Blackduck Ranger District. STATE - Minnesota. COUNTY - Itasca. LEGAL - T148N R31N Sections 12 and 13, T148N R30W Section 18. Rabideau CCC Camp.				
	<b>Location:</b> UNIT - Blackduck Ranger District. STATE - Minnesota. COUNTY - Itasca. LEGAL - T148N R27, 28, 29W; T149N R27, 28, 29W; and T150N R27, 28N. Between Island Lake, Round Lake, and Wagner Creek.				

<b>Chippewa National Forest</b>	<b>Deer River Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District)</b>	<b>R9 - Eastern Region</b>
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<b>Chippewa National Forest Deer River Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District)</b>					<b>R9 - Eastern Region</b>
<b>Larch Research Study Research Studies</b> CE *NEW LISTING*	- Vegetation management (other than forest products) - Research and Development	In Progress: Scoping Start 12/06/2011	Expected:12/2011	01/2012	Barb Knight 218-246-2362 bknight@fs.fed.us
	<b>Description:</b> Northern Research study the effects of thinning on red pine, white spruce and European larch to develop quality saw logs.				
	<b>Location:</b> UNIT - Deer River Ranger District. STATE - Minnesota. COUNTY - Itasca. LEGAL - T 58 N, R 25 E Section 12. The Marcel experimental forest on the Deer River District of the Chippewa National Forest.				
<b>Pine Grove Resort move cabin #6</b> CE	- Special use management	Completed	Actual: 11/09/2011	12/2011	Mary Humenberger 218-246-3455 mhumenberger@fs.fed.us
	<b>Description:</b> Pine Grove Resort has asked permission to move cabin #6 from behind lodge to a more central location with lake view.				
	<b>Location:</b> UNIT - Deer River Ranger District. STATE - Minnesota. COUNTY - Cass, Itasca. LEGAL - T148N R26W S6. T148N R26W S6, west side of Bowstring River access to Sand Lake.				
<b>Six Mile Dam</b> CE	- Wildlife, Fish, Rare plants	In Progress: Scoping Start 04/09/2010	Expected:01/2012	01/2012	Eric Raitanen 218-246-3475 ericraitanen@fs.fed.us
	<b>Description:</b> Six mile dam is dilapidated and not functioning and is a barrier to fish migration. This project will replace the dam with a structure that passes fish and has low maintenance.				
	<b>Location:</b> UNIT - Deer River Ranger District. STATE - Minnesota. COUNTY - Cass. LEGAL - T144N R27W S17. Deer River Range District Cass County, MN.				
<b>Suomi Hills Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized Area Trail Project</b> EA	- Recreation management	On Hold	N/A	N/A	Ann Long-Voelkner 218-335-8616 alongvoelkner@fs.fed.us
	<b>Description:</b> Conversion of low standard roads to trails, new trail construction, building trail shelters, installation of gates/berms on system roads/unclassified roads, and parking areas within the Soumi Hills SPNM Area.				
	<b>Location:</b> UNIT - Deer River Ranger District. STATE - Minnesota. COUNTY - Itasca. LEGAL - T 58 N, R 26 W. The project area is located west of MN Highway 38; south and east of Itasca County Road 48; and north of the forest boundary. The project is within the designated Soumi Hills SPNM Area as defined by.				

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<b>Chippewa National Forest Deer River Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District)</b>					<b>R9 - Eastern Region</b>
<b>Talmoon Vegetation Management Project</b> EA	- Forest products	In Progress: Scoping Start 11/22/2011 Est. 215 Comment Period Legal Notice 06/2012	Expected:07/2012	01/2013	Barb Knight 218-246-2362 bknight@fs.fed.us
	<b>Description:</b> located in the eastern portion of the Chippewa National Forest				
	<b>Web Link:</b> <a href="http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=37215">http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=37215</a>				
	<b>Location:</b> UNIT - Deer River Ranger District. STATE - Minnesota. COUNTY - Itasca. LEGAL - Township 58 North, Range 26 West; Township 59 North, Range 26-27 West; Township 60 North, Range 26-27 West; T147N R 25-26 W; T148N R 25-26 W; T149N R25-26W. eastern portion of the Chippewa National Forest.				
<b>Variable Density Thinning Research Areas</b> CE  *NEW LISTING*	- Forest products - Vegetation management (other than forest products) - Research and Development	Completed	Actual: 12/22/2011	01/2012	Barb Knight 218-246-2362 bknight@fs.fed.us
	<b>Description:</b> 20 acres of thinning contrasting standard row thinning, a variable density thinning - gap and reserve approach, and a control area in a mid-rotation, overstocked, Red pine stand.				
	<b>Web Link:</b> <a href="http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=37950">http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=37950</a>				
	<b>Location:</b> UNIT - Deer River Ranger District. STATE - Minnesota. COUNTY - Itasca. LEGAL - T 148 N, R 27 W, Sections 25, 36, 26; T 147 N, R 27 W, Sections 13, 14; T 147 N, R 27 W, Section 4. East of County Road 34 on forest roads 2539 and 2539A.				
<b>Voyageur's Classic Sled Dog Race</b> CE  *NEW LISTING*	- Special use management	Completed	Actual: 12/20/2011	01/2012	Barb Knight 218-246-2362 bknight@fs.fed.us
	<b>Description:</b> Sled dog race using snowmobile trails from Squaw Lake to Northome to Effie to Bigfork to Marcell to Squaw Lake to Northome				
	<b>Location:</b> UNIT - Deer River Ranger District. STATE - Minnesota. COUNTY - Itasca, Koochiching. LEGAL - T147N R25W;T148N R25W;T148N R26W;T148N R27W;T148N R28W;T149N R26N; T149N R27W ; T149N R28W ; T150N R28WT60N R26W;T59N R26; T59N R27W. Sled dog race using snowmobile trails from Squaw Lake to Northome to Effie to Bigfork to Marcell to Squaw Lake to Northome.				

<b>Chippewa National Forest</b>	<b>Walker Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District)</b>	<b>R9 - Eastern Region</b>
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<b>Chippewa National Forest</b>	<b>Walker Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District)</b>				<b>R9 - Eastern Region</b>
<b>Former Cass Lake Ranger District Office</b> CE	- Facility management	Cancelled	N/A	N/A	Christine Brown 218-335-8661 christinembrown@fs.fed.us
	<b>Description:</b> Sale of old district office				
	<b>Location:</b> UNIT - Walker Ranger District. STATE - Minnesota. COUNTY - Cass. Old administrative site in Cass Lake, MN.				
<b>Pine Vegetation Management Project</b> EA  *NEW LISTING*	- Forest products - Vegetation management (other than forest products) - Fuels management - Watershed management	In Progress: Scoping Start 12/07/2011 Est. 215 Comment Period Legal Notice 04/2012	Expected:05/2012	06/2012	Deborah Overton 218-547-6002 x130 doverton@fs.fed.us
	<b>Description:</b> Commercially thin plantation origin conifer on the Walker Ranger District to improve growth and vigor, forest health, and species diversity.				
	<b>Web Link:</b> <a href="http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=37583">http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=37583</a>				
<b>Portage Creek Dam Removal</b> CE	- Wildlife, Fish, Rare plants - Watershed management	In Progress: Scoping Start 01/27/2010	Expected:05/2012	09/2012	David Morley 218-547-1044 damorley@fs.fed.us
	<b>Description:</b> Replace the existing dam on the Soo Line Trail, about 0.3 of a mile west of the junction with FR2131, with a natural grade control structure and span the newly constructed opening with a bridge.				
	<b>Location:</b> UNIT - Walker Ranger District. STATE - Minnesota. COUNTY - Cass. LEGAL - T145N R29W Sec36 . SOO Line Trail and FR2131.				



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<b>West Branch Site</b> CE	- Facility management	Cancelled	N/A	N/A	Christine Brown 218-335-8661 christinembrown@fs.fed.us
	<b>Description:</b> Sale of surplus facility.				
	<b>Location:</b> UNIT - Walker Ranger District. STATE - Minnesota. COUNTY - Cass. SW 1/4 lying northerly and easterly of the centerline of Township Road 10 as it existed in 1998.				

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